

NEW JERSEY REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

CODE OF ETHICS

I. PURPOSE

To state the Code of Ethics for the New Jersey Redevelopment Authority ("Authority"), specifying standards of conduct for employees and members to ensure the propriety of their actions as public officials.

II. DEFINITIONS

Employee - shall mean any person employed by the Authority.

Member - shall mean any of the ten (10) ex-officio representatives, seven (7) representatives appointed by the Governor, two (2) representatives appointed by the Senate President, two (2) representatives appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly, and any other individuals officially designated to lawfully vote on Authority matters, as established by P.L. 1996 c.62 (C.55:19-20 et al).

III. BASIC PREMISE

The Authority, as an agency of State government, has a basic purpose to serve the public interest. All employees must therefore conduct themselves in the course of their employment in such a manner as to hold the respect, trust and confidence of the public. They must avoid any activities or associations that are, or might justifiably appear to be, in violation of the public interest.

IV. GENERAL PROVISIONS - RESTRICTIONS ON OUTSIDE ACTIVITY

- (a) No employee or member shall have any interest, financial or otherwise, direct or indirect, or engage in any business or transaction or professional activity which is in substantial conflict with the proper discharge of his/her duties in the public interest.
- (b) No employee or member shall make, directly or indirectly, or advise or otherwise assist any person to make any financial investment based upon information available to him/her through his/her official position, unless such information is generally available to the public and provided that such investment or related advice or assistance is made or given in a manner consistent with the other provisions of this code, the New Jersey Conflicts of Interest Law and any other applicable provision of the Law.
- (c) No employee or member should undertake any employment of service, whether compensated or not, which might reasonably be expected to impair his/her objectivity or independence of judgement in the exercise of his/her official duties.

- (d) No employee or member should engage in any particular business, profession, trade, or occupation which is subject to licensing or regulation by a specific agency of State Government, without properly filing notice with the Authority's Deputy Executive Director, who shall then file same with the Executive Commission on Ethical Standards.
- (e) In accordance with the Authority's Administrative Policy, every employee or member will be expected to answer and sign each year a "Conflicts of Interest Statement" in which s/he should identify all non-Authority offices held, all professional licenses held, and all outside employment. The Deputy Executive Director of the Authority must approve all outside activities reported on these statements.

V. ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS ON INDIVIDUAL CONDUCT

- (a) No employee or member shall knowingly act in any way that might reasonably be expected to create an impression or suspicion among the public having knowledge of his/her acts that s/he may be engaged in conduct that violates his/her trust as an officer or employee.
- (b) No employee or member shall use or attempt to use his/her official position to secure unwarranted privileges for himself/herself or others.
- (c) No employee or member shall willfully disclose to any person, whether or not for pecuniary gain, any information not generally available to members of the public, which s/he receives or acquires in the course of and by reason of his/her official duties.
- (d) No employee or member shall use Authority resources, property and funds for personal gain or benefit.
- (e) No member, officer, agent or employee of the Authority or any of its subsidiaries shall take any official action on any matter in which he or she has a direct or indirect financial interest, except that the ownership of, or a tenancy in, one's own private residence shall not be considered a financial interest for the purposes of this section.
- (f) No member, officer, employee or agent of the Authority shall be interested, either directly or indirectly, within the meaning of N.J.S.A. 55:19-23 (m), in any project, contract, sale, purchase, lease or transfer of real or personal property to which the Authority is a party.

VI. DISCLOSURE AND AVOIDANCE OF CERTAIN CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

In the event a member or employee should have or acquire a direct or indirect financial interest in, or business dealing with, any individual or entity (or subsidiary or affiliate thereof) which seeks to do, or does business with the Authority directly or indirectly, in any capacity, including, without limitation, as an applicant, consultant, contractor, attorney, or architect, the member or employee shall, as soon as s/he knows of such interest, in addition to taking any other action required by law:

1. fully disclose any such ownership interest or business dealings in writing to the Deputy Executive Director; and
2. (a) fully divest himself/herself of the interest or discontinue the business dealings; or,
(b) refrain from participating in all activities of the Authority relating to the individual or entity.

VII. ACCEPTANCE OF COMPENSATION AND GIFTS

(a) No employee or member shall accept from any person, whether directly or indirectly and whether by himself/herself or through his/her spouse or any other member of his/her family or through any partner or associate, any gift, favor, service, employment or offer of any other thing of value which s/he knows or has reason to believe or under circumstances from which it might reasonably be inferred is offered to him/her with the intent to influence him/her in the performance of his/her public duties and responsibilities. This section shall not apply to the acceptance of contributions to the campaign of an announced candidate for public office.

(b) No employee or member shall solicit, receive or agree to receive, whether directly or indirectly, any compensation, reward, employment, gift or other thing of value from any source other than the State of New Jersey or the Authority, for any service, advice, assistance or other matter related to his/her official duties, except, in connection therewith, reimbursement of actual expenditures for travel and reasonable subsistence for which no payment or reimbursement is made by the State of New Jersey or the Authority. This section shall not apply to the solicitation or acceptance of contributions to the campaign of an announced candidate for elective public office.

(c) Each and every offer and/or receipt of any gift, etc. must be reported to the Authority's Director of Administration, who with the Authority's Deputy Executive Director, will review the circumstances of the offer and determine the proper course of action.

VIII. AFTER EMPLOYMENT RESTRICTION

No employee or member, subsequent to the termination of his/her office or employment with the Authority, shall represent, appear for or negotiate on behalf of, whether by himself/herself or through any partnership, firm or corporation in which s/he has an interest in or through, officer or employee thereof, any person or party other than the Authority in connection with any cause, proceeding, application or other matter with respect to which such employee or member shall have made any investigation, rendered any ruling, given any opinion, or been otherwise substantially and directly involved at any time during the course of his/her office or employment. Any employee or member who violates the provisions of this section is considered a disorderly person, and shall be subject to the penalties as prescribed in the New Jersey Conflicts of Interest Law.

IX. ENFORCEMENT

This Code of Ethics is adopted by the New Jersey Redevelopment Authority pursuant to and subject to the provisions of the New Jersey Conflicts of Interest Law (c.182, P.L. 1971), as amended by c.359, P.L. 1971, and N.J.S.A. 52:13D-12 et seq.) Any violation of this Code shall be cause for removal, suspension, demotion or other disciplinary action, including any penalty that may be imposed by the applicable law, subject to the review and approval of the Executive Commission on Ethical Standards.